



Is There Racial Disparities for Children of Color in Child Welfare: Status and Solutions.

Child Welfare Specialty Practice Group
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Presenters

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Indiana Disproportionality Committee

Representatives from State child welfare and juvenile justice systems (public and private) have come together to establish the Indiana Disproportionality Committee.

- **VISION**: Children of all races and ethnicities being equitably served by Indiana's human service systems.
- **MISSION**: Create equality within the Indiana child welfare and juvenile justice systems and equalize the proportion of children of color in human service systems with their percentage of the overall population.





History

- **Why a Committee?**
 - Recommendation 7 from the Indiana Commission on Abused & neglected children
 - Solution focused
- Indiana Disproportionality Committee (IDC) had its first meeting on November 12, 2004
- Representatives from the state's public and private child welfare and juvenile justice systems



Purpose of Presentation:

To Raise Awareness

- Define terminology
- Share research about overrepresentation & disproportionality
- Share state data
- Identify current Indiana efforts
- Engage in dialogue for possible solutions



Defining the Problem

Children of color are disproportionately and often overrepresented in the child welfare and juvenile justice systems.



Defining the Problem (cont.)

Disproportionality: Refers to the situation where a particular racial and/or ethnic group is represented within a social system **at a rate or percentage that is not proportionate** to their representation in the general population.



Defining the Problem (cont.)

Over-representation: Refers to the situation where a particular racial and/or ethnic group is represented within a social system at a **higher rate or percentage** than their representation in the general population.



In your work, have you noticed over-representation or disproportionality?

Impacted Professionals

Probation	Law Enforcement	Education
Attorney	Mental Health	Judiciary
Prosecutor	Public Defender	Health Care
Citizen	Community Leader	Legislator
Social Worker	Juvenile Justice	Child Welfare (Public)
Child Welfare (Private)		CASA/GAL
Faith-Based	Firefighters	Other





Defining the Problem

Child Welfare

- **Children of Color enter foster care at a higher rate**
- **They are removed more often, rather than receiving in-home services.**
- **They stay in the system much longer.**
- **Less likely to reunite with families or be adopted from foster care.**

Juvenile Justice

- **Children of Color are treated more severely at every step of the juvenile justice system.**
- **They receive longer sentences.**
- **They're more likely to be charged with a violent offense.**
- **More likely to be sentenced to juvenile prison on drug charges.**



Defining the Problem

Education

- **Nationally and in Indiana, Black male students receive disciplinary action more often than students of any other race or gender.**
- **Black males are three times more likely to be held back than White males.**
- **In Indiana, Black children are four times more likely and Hispanic children are two times more likely to receive out of school suspensions than Whites.**

Mental Health

- **National studies have proven that Black youth, ages 13-17, are more likely to be referred to mental health facilities than White youth the same age.**
- **In the US minority youth are underserved compared to White youths by services such as counseling and psychotherapy.**
- **Researchers have found a direct correlation between the number of children of color underserved by the mental health system and the number entering the juvenile justice system.**



Indiana Disproportionality: Defining the Problem

Child Welfare:

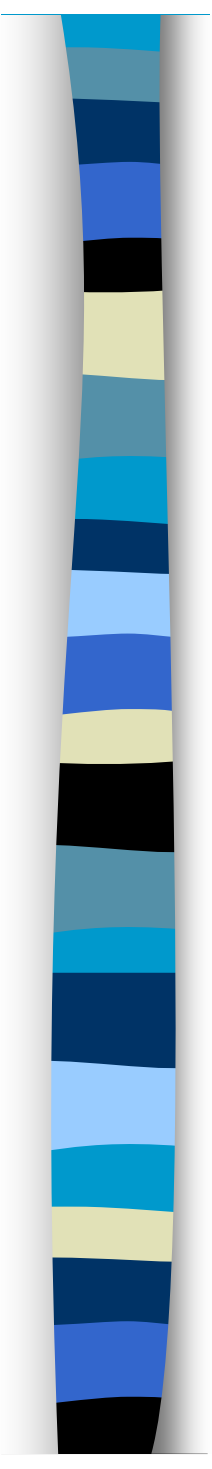
These disparities exist despite evidence
that there is no difference in the incidence of child abuse
and neglect according to racial group

(The Pew Commission on Children in Foster Care, 2004)

Juvenile Justice:

“Racial disparities in detention happen because both
individual decision-makers and entire agencies make
discretionary judgments and implement policies that treat
minority youth differently from similarly situated white youth”

(Pathways to Juvenile Detention Reform: Reducing Racial Disparities, n.d., p.14)



**“Disproportionality of children
of color is the result of
multiple disadvantages that
are social, political, economic
and attitudinal in nature.”**

(Casey Family Programs: Breakthrough Series Collaborative: Reducing Disproportionality and Disparate Outcomes for Children and Families of Color in the Child Welfare System).

- 
- What do you think are some of the causes of disproportionality?



Disproportionality: What are the causes?

- Poverty
- Great frequency of reporting
- Higher visibility in systems that report.
- Worker bias
- Lack of cultural competency training requirements.

(The Pew Commission on Children in Foster Care, 2004)

- Decision-maker bias
- Increased visibility and/or more patrolling of specific areas
- Subjective judgments
- Unequal policies
- Lack of cultural competency training requirements

(Pathways to Juvenile Detention Reform: Reducing Racial Disparities, n.d., p.14)

Theories



**What do you see as being effects
of Disproportionality
on **YOUR** work?**



Indiana Trends

Indiana's YOUTH **Population**

In 2005, Indiana Youth's population consisted of:

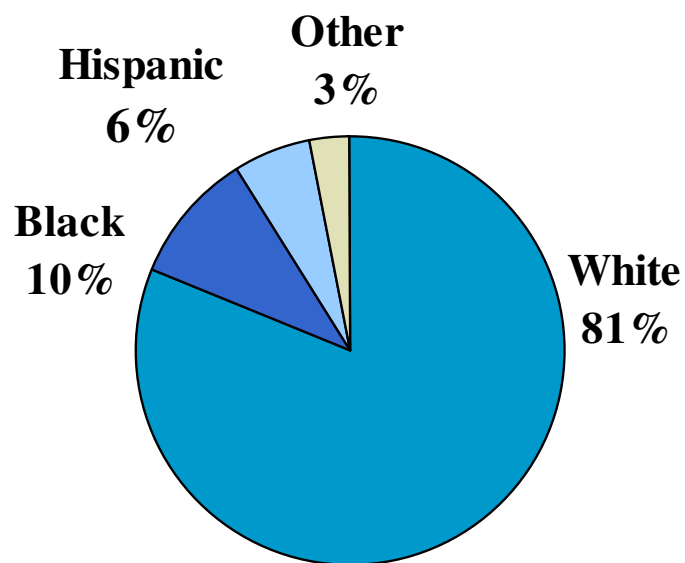
81% White

10% Black

6% Hispanic

3% Other

U.S. Census Bureau, 2005

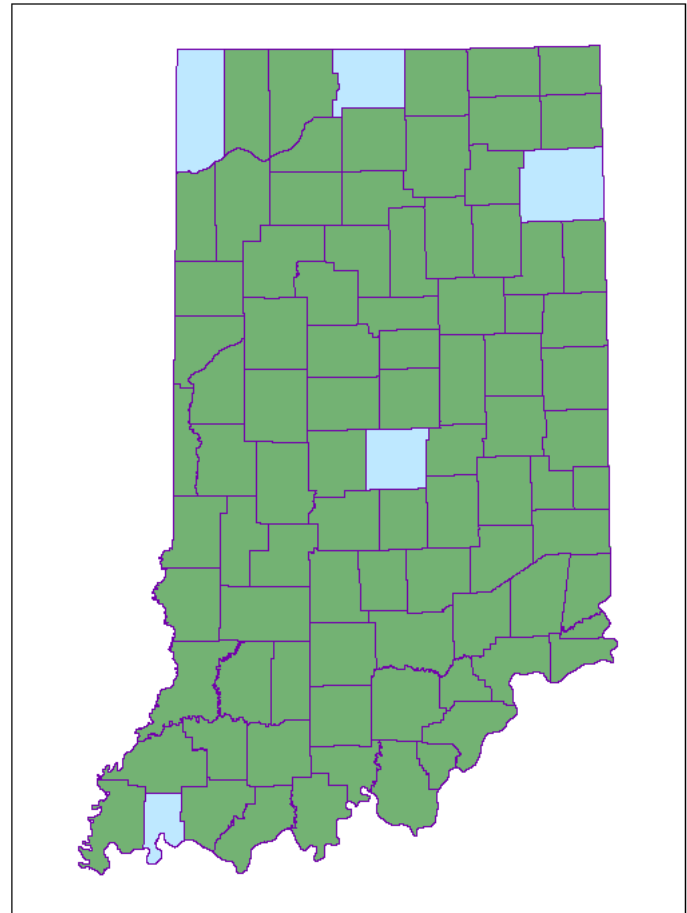


Indiana General Population

Black Populations are concentrated in few counties:

81% of Blacks live in 5 counties: Allen, Lake, Marion, St. Joseph, and Vanderburgh

81 Percent of Blacks Live in Five Counties



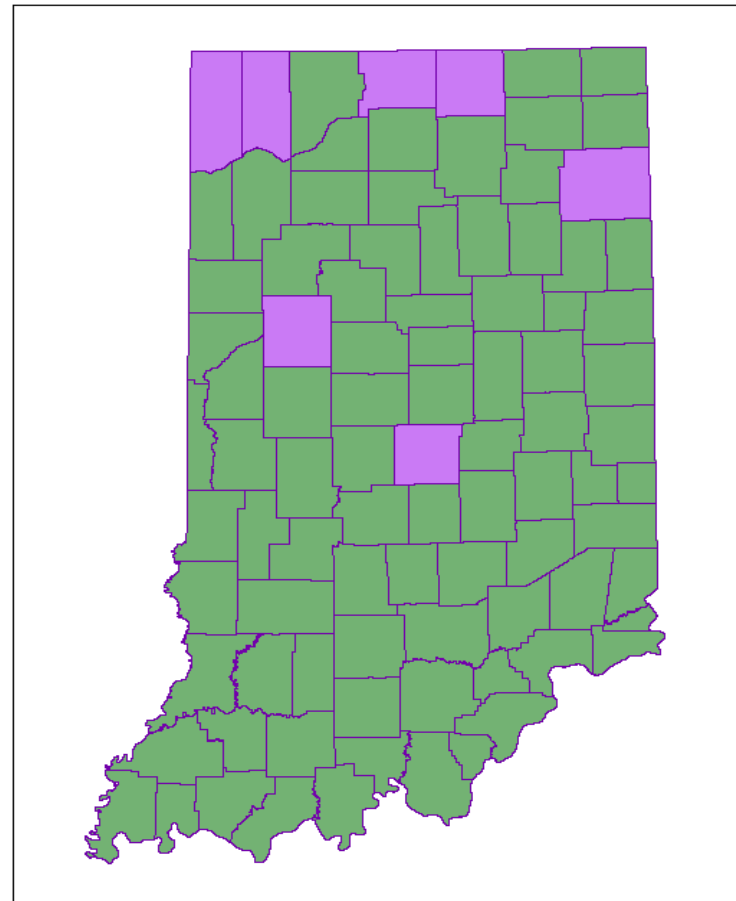
Indiana Youth Institute, Kids Count in Indiana
Original Source of Data: U.S. Census Bureau, Population Division, 2003 County Estimates by Demographic Characteristics, Indiana. September 30, 2004.

Indiana General Population

67 Percent of Hispanics Live in Seven Counties

Hispanic Populations are concentrated in few counties:

67% of Hispanics live in 7 counties: Allen, Elkhart, Lake, Marion, St. Joseph, and Tippecanoe



Indiana Youth Institute, Kids Count in Indiana 2005 Data Book: County Profiles of Child Well-Being.
Original Source of Data: U.S. Census Bureau, Population Division, 2003 County Estimates by Demographic Characteristics, Indiana. September 30, 2004.



Child Welfare

Indiana Out-of-Home Care

Indiana's out-of-home care population in 2005 was made up of:

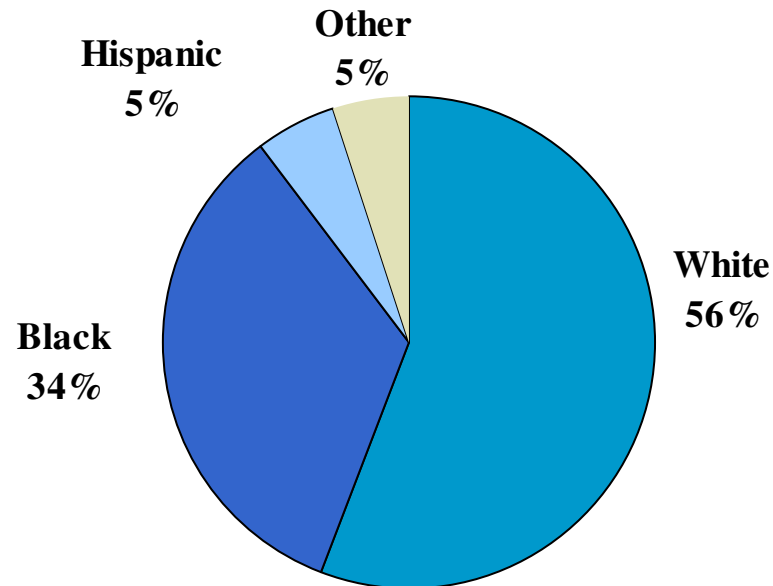
55.6% White

34.3% Black

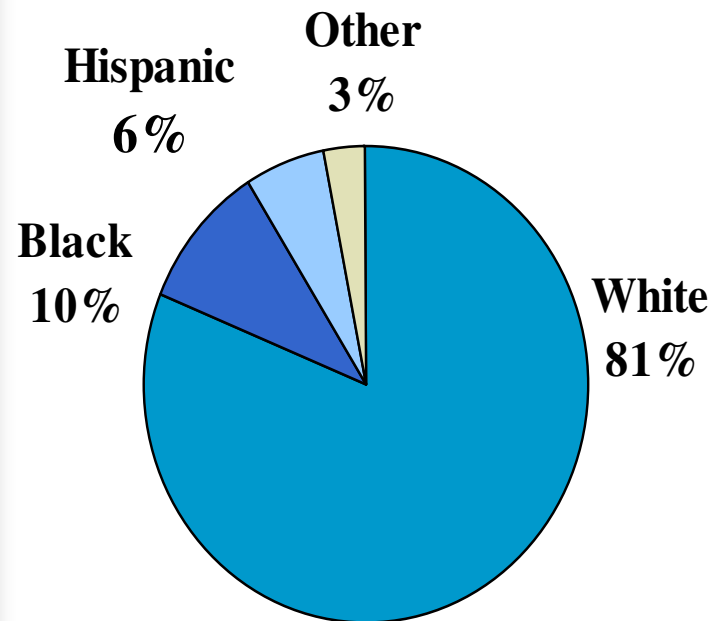
5.5% Hispanic

5% Other

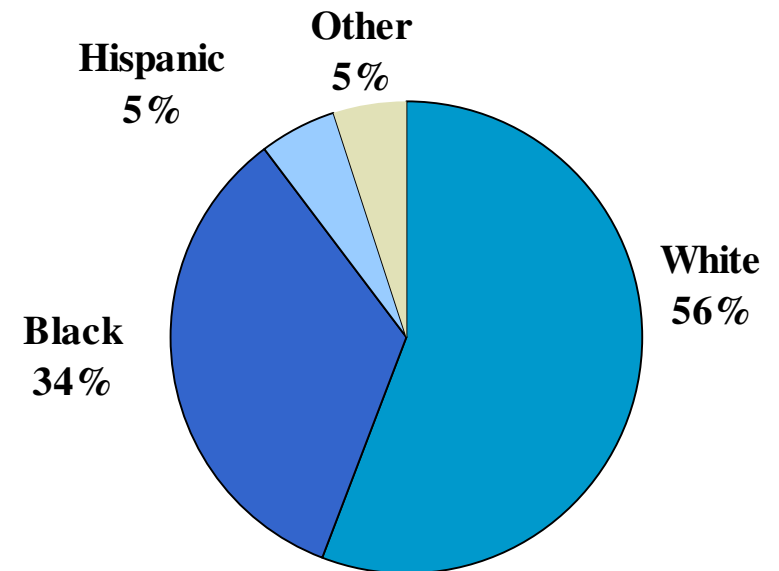
(Special tabulation, AFCARS by CWLA).



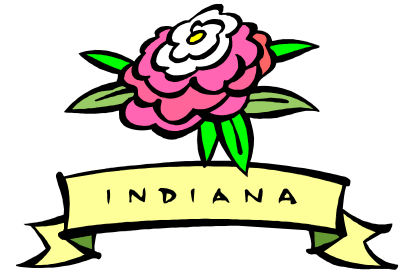
Side by Side Comparison



Indiana
Youth Population



Indiana
Out-of-Home Care

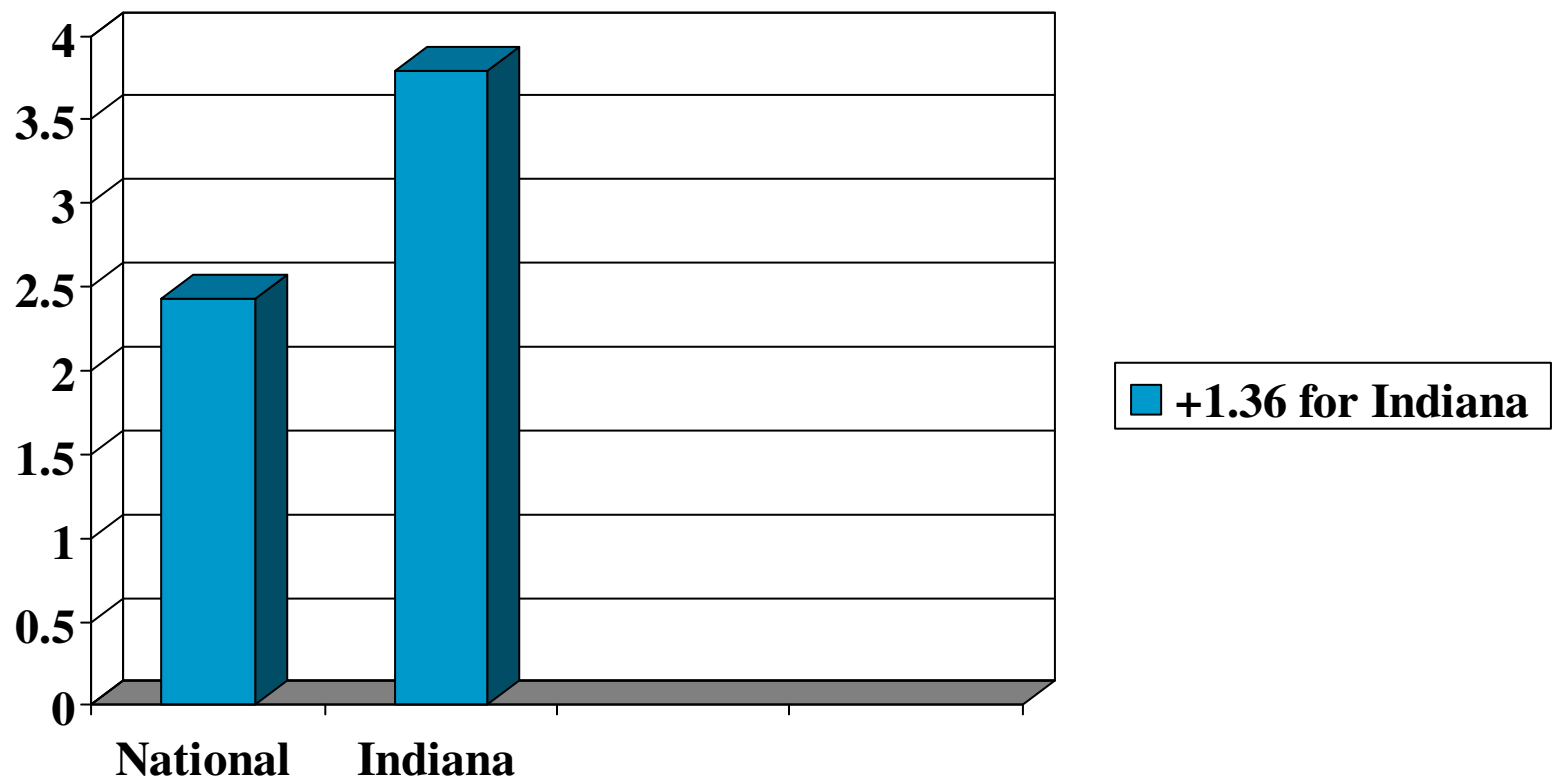


Child Welfare

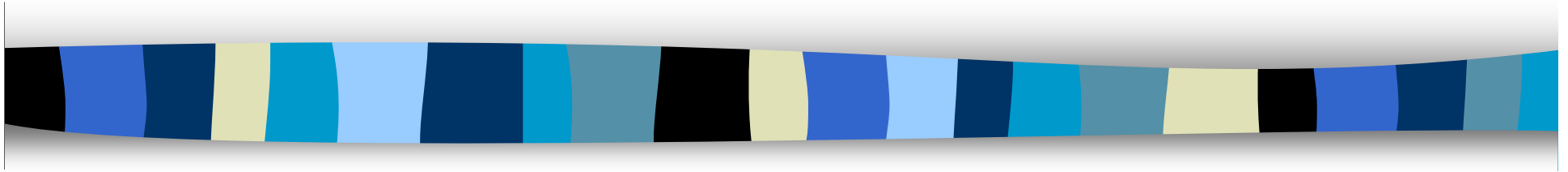
Race Matters found Indiana is one of 16 states that has been found to have “Extreme Disproportion” in Foster Care (*3.50 and over is considered extreme*).

Indiana’s rate for 2000 data was 3.79

Rates Compared



IIARCCA...Indiana Association of Children & Family Services



IARCCA Outcome Measures Project



Outcome Measures Project

- Implemented statewide in 1998
- Ongoing data collection
- Participation rate – 75% of member agencies (104 member agencies)
- HIPAA compliant
- Over 5,500 forms completed annually



Outcomes collected

- **Clinical**
 - **Difficulty of child, family**
- **Functional**
 - **Education, employment**
- **Program Effectiveness**
 - **Met permanency goal, ROLES**
- **Satisfaction**
 - **Child, parent, referral source**



Who are the children (2005)?

- **5,319 youth**
- **12.4 years old (Mean)**
- **53.8% male --- 46.2% female**
- **68.3 % Caucasian**
- **21.7% African American**
- **3.4 % Hispanic**
- **6.6% Other**



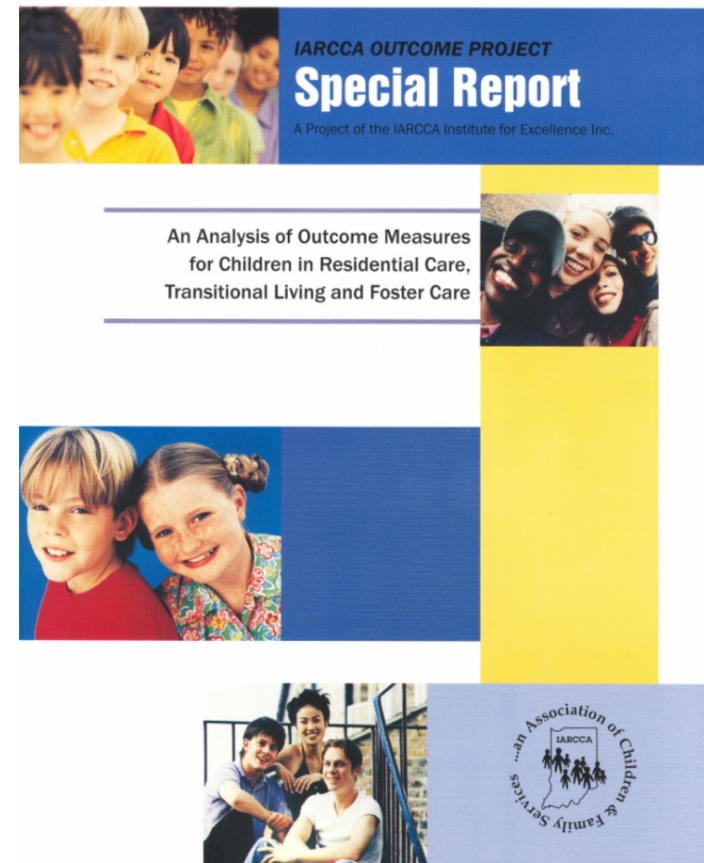
Program Types

- **Residential Care – 4 subtypes: PRTF, Locked Secure, Public Schools, and Public and On-grounds**
- **Foster Care;**
- **Transitional Living;**
- **Crisis Stabilization;**
- **Shelter Care;**
- **Home-Based;**
- **Day Treatment**

IARCCA Outcome Project Special Report (2003)

**An analysis of
outcome measures
for children in
residential care,
transitional living,
and foster care.**

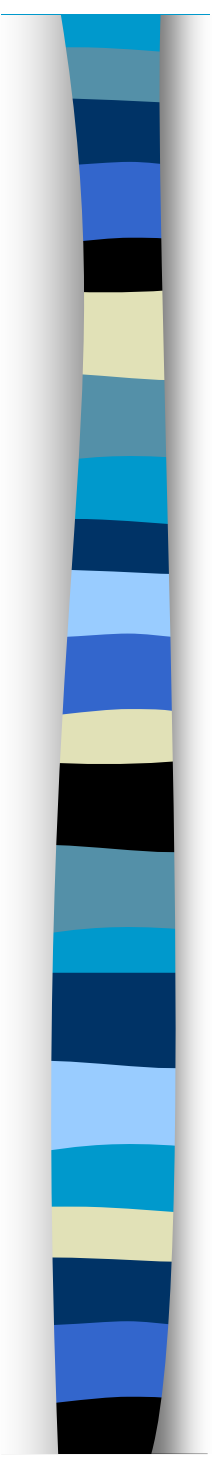
**Funding provided by
the Lilly Endowment
Inc.**





Foster Care Results

- **Minority children were more likely to have negative educational outcomes than were Caucasian children.**
- **The relationship between physical abuse and restrictiveness of environment at discharge and sexual abuse and restrictiveness of environment at discharge were significant for Minority children, but not for Caucasian children.**
- **The relationship between special education and restrictiveness of environment was also significant for Minority children, but not for Caucasian children.** (IARCCA Outcome Measures Project, Special Report 2003)

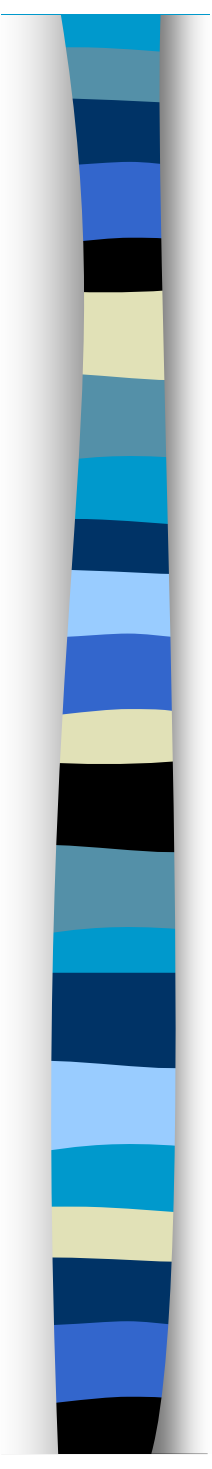
- 
- For a copy of this report and other research on outcomes for Indiana's Children, visit:

IARCCA at www.iarcca.org/

Reports are found in the Reference Library.



Juvenile Corrections

- 
- Black juveniles accounted for 32.66% of the juvenile population in 2006;
 - Over 28% of the juvenile offenders incarcerated for Controlled Substances are Black males;
 - Of the current juveniles males incarcerated on weapons charges, 41.67% of them are black males;
 - Indiana Counties with the highest number of incarcerated juveniles (Handout).



Addressing Disproportionality



What is being done Nationally?

- Greater visibility and prioritization overall.
- More research being done
- *Race Matters Consortium*
- Casey Foundation
- Coalition for Juvenile Justice (CJJ)
 - *State Advisory Groups* in all 50 States.

What's being done in Indiana...



- **State of Black Youth Report (SOBY) by Indiana Black Expo (IBE) Regional Initiatives**
- **Juvenile Detention Alternative Initiative (JDAI) – Marion County was selected by the Annie E. Casey Foundation to be a site**
- **IARCCA's Outcome Measures Project**
- **Including DMC presentation into MSW Curriculum**
- **IU Center for Education and Evaluation Policy (CEEP) collaboration**



What's being done in Indiana continued...

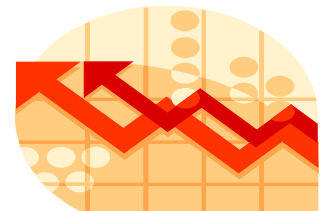
- **Children and Adolescent Needs and Strengths (CANS) – Mental Health Statewide Assessment Initiative**
- **Full-time DMC Coordinator at ICJI**
- **Collaboration efforts with Department of Education (DOE)**
- **Collaboration efforts with Indiana Minority Health Coalition (IMHC)**
- **Indiana Civil Rights Commission – PBIS Cultural Responsive Initiative**



IDC

Recommendations for Change

- Encourage community building, including employment opportunities and networking with non-traditional services
- Make racial related/driven data more effectively and consistently available to the public
- Mandate diversity training for every State agency
- Require culturally competent practices at all levels
- Partnerships in the equity solution among all sectors





IDC

Recommendations for Change continued...

- Encourage consistent collection of data
- Increase prevention services & programs
- Change policies and practice guidelines
- Compare Indiana efforts to other States
- Make services accountable

Getting Involved

- **Acknowledge the problem.**
- **Provide quality services.**
- **Ask questions and become informed.**
- **Invest in children.**
- **Insist on realistic public policies.**
- **Advocate for change.**
- **Spread the word.**
- **Are you aware of other possible partners?**
- **What are your suggestions and recommendations?**





Thank You

Indiana Disproportionality Committee

**Working together to make connections
and find solutions.**